

## 5 Comment Letters

June 24, 2002

Stacy Mason  
Bonneville Power Administration KEC-4  
P.O. Box 3621  
Portland, OR 97208

RECEIVED BY BPA PUBLIC INVOLVEMENT LOG#: <i>mjt-015</i>
RECEIPT DATE: <i>JUL 02 2002</i>

RE: McNary-John Day Transmission Line Project

Dear Ms. Mason:

My name is Leon Fuhrman. I'm the grandson of Jim and Blanche Fuhrman of Klickitat County and the son of their fourth child Adrian Fuhrman. My parents were married at the ranch on June 12, 1938. I was born in Yakima, WN July 1939. I lived in the Vancouver, WA area near Ridgefield from the time my parents moved from Goldendale during the war until 1972 when I moved to Salem, OR. I had a productive and rewarding career with the Oregon State Department of Education working with deaf children and at-risk youth until my retirement in 1998.

First, I want to express my appreciation of your willingness to meet and discuss with our family the preservation of "The Ranch" as it is known to all of us kids. I, along with other family members were surprised to hear about the Transmission Line Project that may jeopardize the house, garage and barn. This property is indeed a family treasure and still, very much, a part of our lives.

If "Big Grammy" were still there, when we arrive for our meeting on the 8th, we would most likely be greeted with a pot of beans on the old cook stove (still there). For dessert she would offer one of her special gooseberry cobblers or perhaps a fresh baked batch of her famous cinnamon rolls. That gooseberry cobbler would sure make your mouth pucker when you'd eat it! But, after some added fresh, thick cream and more sugar (for my taste) there was nothing, nor will there ever be, anything quite like it. The pan she used to make those two delightful treats is still in the kitchen.

Every summer and on many holidays, since I can remember, there was always the anticipation and joy of going to The Ranch to see Big Grammy and Grandpa. My "Little Grammy" and Grandpa (my mother's folks) lived west of Goldendale at Blockhouse. The drive up to the Ranch from Vancouver, on what is now Highway 14, seemed like an eternity as our old "36" Plymouth made a beeline for Chamberlain Flats. "Are we there yet?" My brother and I'd ask that question, to what must have seemed to our parents, a hundred times as the three hour plus drive brought us closer to Big Grammy and her welcome hug. I can still feel her softness. That memory will never leave me. If I set my mind to it, I could write a book of life long lessons I learned and experiences I had during those summers at The Ranch. Helping my grandparents with the haying and other summer chores was one of the true joys of my life. If I worked really hard, at summer's end, Grandpa would reward me with a five-dollar bill! They and my aunts and uncles were truly the "Greatest Generation" and remain my heroes.

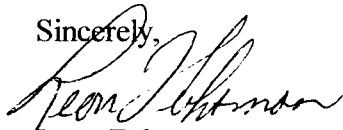
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Fortunately, our family has been able to continue the tradition of gathering at The Ranch thanks to the lease we've had with the various owners of the aluminum company that bought the ranch in the seventies. About every two years we have a get-together we call the "Fuhrman Pow Wow." It brings in relatives from all over the northwest. We have three of the Fuhrman children remaining. Uncle Bus, Aunt Vera and Aunt Marian. It is a joy to gather with them at The Ranch and share many wonderful memories.

Even though many of the tall poplar and cottonwood trees, the lush spring-fed garden, the six foot high hollyhocks, the old wash room, the outhouse, the gate with the bells on it to announce our arrival have long since gone, in my mind's eye they remain. And when I'm having a quiet moment sitting on the porch at "The Ranch" looking at the marvelous view up the Columbia River, my mind goes back to those sunny summer mornings, and, I can still hear Grandpa's voice hollering up the stairs, "Time to get up. The hotcakes are on!"

I'm looking forward to our meeting on July 8<sup>th</sup> at the site of our family's roots.

Sincerely,



Leon Fuhrman  
3390 Crestview Drive S  
Salem, OR 97302

cc: Senators Patty Murray and Maria Cantwell  
Congressman Doc Hastings  
State Senator Jim Honeyford  
Representatives Bruce Chandler and Barb Lisk  
Klickitat County Commissioners Don Struck, Joan Frey and Ray Thayer